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UNCLAS SECTION 01 OF 02 NASSAU 000071

SIPDIS

SENSITIVE

DS/DSS/OSAC, DS/IP/WHA, DS/IP/ITA

E.O. 12958: N/A

TAGS: [ASEC](#)

SUBJECT: BAHAMAS - CRIME STATISTICS AND TRENDS

REF: SECSTATE 228796

1. (SBU) Statistics from the Royal Bahamas Police Force (RBPF) just released show that during 2005 there has been a 10 per cent increase in serious crime recorded in Nassau, with increasing figures reported for murder, armed robbery, attempted robbery and unlawful sexual assaults. Serious crime has also increased by 33 percent in Grand Bahama, a constituent post, which also has Customs and Border Protection and DEA personnel who fall under Chief of Mission authority. The fastest growing trend in Nassau and Grand Bahama, according to figures released by the RBPF on January 9, 2005, is hit style killings. Statistical information has shown a 15 per cent increase in the total amount of murders recorded from 44 in 2004 to 52 in 2005, of which several hit style killings were carried out to intimidate individuals from acting as witnesses in court.

2. (SBU) During 2005, many establishments frequented by Embassy employees and tourist from the United States have been robbed by armed individuals. This trend continues, during the evening of 7 January 2006, the City Market grocery store was robbed by two armed thieves. The store is an American style facility located in a large tourist section of Nassau known as Cable Beach. The store is also typically the sole grocery store used by USG personnel. Two masked gunmen entered the store around 1900 hours demanding money. Upon taking an undetermined amount of money, the men escaped in a white Nissan Sentra. The Police were called to the scene and minutes later, observed a vehicle fitting the description of the getaway car and gave chase. An exchange of gunfire between the suspects and police occurred in a quiet residential neighborhood. One of the suspects was shot in the upper back area and died at the scene. Police indicated the suspected who was fatally shot was also wearing a bullet proof vest. The second suspect escaped, and the Police have launched an island wide manhunt for this individual, which they have yet to locate.

3. (SBU) Crime Statistics in Nassau:

Crimes Against Person 2005/YTD 2004/YTD %CHANGE

Murder	52		
44	15		
Attempted Murder	0		
0	0		
Manslaughter	2		
2	0		
Rape	80		
86	-7		
Attempted Rape	23		
31	-26		
Unlawful Sexual Intercourse	189	183	3
Armed Robbery	782		
659	16		
Robbery	198		
200	-1		
Attempted Robbery	28		
18	36		

SUB-TOTAL 1354
1223 10

Crimes Against Property 2005/YTD 2004/YTD %CHANGE

Burglary	252		
188	25		
Housebreaking	2228		
1997	10		
Shop breaking	1343		
1463	-8		
Stealing	1483		
3793	-62		
Stealing From Vehicles	720	1688	
-57			
Stolen Vehicle	846		

7171 15

SUB-TOTAL 6827
9846 -31

TOTAL 8181
11,069 -26

14. (SBU) The Regional Security Office is closely working with the Royal Bahamas Police Force on these issues and has stressed the growing concern of the above mentioned patterns, especially during this upcoming Spring Break season. During Spring Break sexual assaults against American tourist are extremely high. The Regional Security Office has also stressed this growing pattern of violent to Embassy personnel, reminding employees to always be vigilant about their surroundings.
HARDT